Recreation Management and Leadership Major Application Process

Priority deadline: November 7, 2019

The application process consists of the following four parts. Please email all documents to Jen Leita in ONE email (jen.leita@wwu.edu). The priority deadline is Thursday, November 7, 2019; this includes having your interview done by that date. Applications will be accepted after the priority deadline date if space is available in the program.

The Recreation Management and Leadership major application is separate from the application to Western Washington University. Admission to the major is contingent on admission to Western.

1. General information: Please address the bullets below in a PDF document:
   - Date
   - Name
   - Student #
   - Local address (street address, city, state, zip)
   - WWU email address
   - Other email address
   - Cell phone number
   - College(s) attended
     - Name of college(s), dates attended, area of study, and GPA
   - Work experience (volunteer or paid)
   - Life experience (travel, special experiences, etc.)
   - Leisure interests / recreation skills
   - Interest Area(s): _____ Community Recreation   _____ Outdoor Recreation    _____ Tourism
     _____ Therapeutic Recreation   _____ Generalist   _____ Undecided

2. Include a double-spaced, 2-3 page essay that addresses the following questions (in a PDF document):
   - Why are you interested in a career in recreation and leisure services?
   - What contributions do you think you can make to the field of recreation and leisure services?
   - What can you contribute to Recreation Management & Leadership and what do you expect to receive from it?
   - Optional: Discuss any other relevant factors that may help us better understand you.

3. Please include an official or unofficial transcript of all college coursework, both here at WWU and at any other colleges you have attended. WWU transcripts can either be saved as a PDF or printed off Web4U and scanned.

4. Schedule an interview with a member of the faculty after all materials have been submitted. You should give the faculty member a day or two to review your application before your interview. (Sign up in Carver 209.)

Admission to Recreation Management and Leadership is based on the following criteria:

- Rec 201, Foundations of Recreation and Leisure, must be successfully completed (minimum grade of “C”) before students may start Phase I. Students who have successfully completed the equivalent of Rec 201 at another college may have it waived with prior permission. (Rec 201 is offered fall and winter quarters only.)
- Grade Point Average: The minimum acceptable GPA is 2.0. However, most students who are admitted to the program have GPAs well above the minimum.
- Interview: The interview includes questions related to the student’s background, work and life experiences, interest in recreation and leisure as a career, and academic strengths and weaknesses. The student is responsible for scheduling an appointment before the deadline. (Criteria continued on page 2)
Essay: See preceding comments on page 1.

Experience: Paid or volunteer experience in recreation-related positions is preferred. Other relevant work and life experiences are also considered.

Important information about applying to Recreation Management and Leadership:

- Students must have reached sophomore status by the spring quarter they plan to begin the major.
- The number of students admitted to the major each year is limited to about sixty. The number of applications exceeds available openings. Students should prepare their material carefully and completely.
- Applicants should first email their materials to Jen Leita (jen.leita@wwu.edu) and then schedule an interview with a faculty member in Carver 209 prior to the deadline.
- The priority deadline for completing all aspects of the application process (including the interview) is November 7, 2019. Applications will be accepted after the priority deadline date if space is available in the major.
- For priority applicants, the faculty will make the final decisions in mid-November. Letters of admittance will be emailed to applicants prior to Thanksgiving break.

Bachelor of Arts Degree – Recreation Management and Leadership

Western Washington University’s Recreation Management and Leadership major prepares students for careers planning, developing, and delivering leisure services in response to society’s need for health, well-being, and quality of life. The curriculum adapts the quarter system to a “Phase” structure. Once admitted to the major, students enter Phase I of the curriculum during spring quarter. They continue through the curriculum as indicated by the schedule below. Students must have at least sophomore status to begin the program, and the Phase curriculum must be completed in sequence.

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<tr>
<th>FALL</th>
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<td>Senior</td>
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Major Concentration (66 credits): Completion of Rec 201, Phases I, II, III and IV

Support Area (25 credits): In addition to the Phase requirements, recreation majors must complete a 25-credit support area. Support area plans are developed with and approved by the student’s faculty advisor and may take either the form of a traditional minor or an interdisciplinary study. See an advisor for more information.

Recreation Management and Leadership Courses

PREREQUISITE COURSE

201 Foundations of Recreation and Leisure (4) [Fall or Winter prior to entering Phase I]
Prereq: Sophomore status or permission. Professional course dealing with the history, philosophy, present status, future goals, and challenges of leisure and the recreation service professions.

PHASE I (SPRING) – 15 credits

260 Introduction to Recreation Services (6)
Prereq: Rec 201; majors only. This course introduces students to the historical, theoretical, and conceptual foundations of the recreation services industry. The course will provide an overview of how recreation is differentiated from other human service fields
and identify and discuss the common core elements of the recreation services system across different sectors (resource management, therapeutic recreation, tourism, community recreation). In addition, the recreation profession will be discussed and grounded in leisure and leisure behavior based on the premise that recreation services should be a force for positive benefits and outcomes and social change.

261 Inclusive Recreation Leadership (6)  
Prereq: Rec 201; majors only. Providing inclusive recreation for all people is a required core competency for every recreation professional. The economic, political, legal, and environmental systems in which we operate provide both barriers and opportunities for inclusive leadership and programming. This course will examine the impacts of power and its influence on the application of practicing applied leadership. Core leadership theories (servant leadership as an example) and the systems in which they operate will be examined, including how power manifests in leadership and influences inclusive practice.

271 Introduction to Community Recreation (3)  
Prereq: Rec 201; majors only. Introduction to community-based recreation service agencies: philosophies, functions, services, personnel, and facilities. Emphasis on the diversity and inter-relatedness of community recreation service agencies.

272 Introduction to Outdoor Recreation (3)  
Prereq: Rec 201; majors only. Introduction to the major professional components of the outdoor recreation field: interpretive services, camping, resource management; programming, private recreation, tourism. Focuses on trends, programs, related professional issues.

274 Introduction to Therapeutic Recreation (4)  
Prereq: Rec 201; majors only. This course provides students an introduction to the field of therapeutic recreation. Classes will cover the history, philosophy, and conceptual foundations of current practices as well as provide an overview of groups typically served in therapeutic recreation settings. Classes will focus on recreation as an integral aspect of rehabilitation, social inclusion, and overall quality of life for people with disabilities.

279 Introduction to Tourism (3)  
Prereq: Rec 201; majors only. Introduction to the major professional components of tourism: tour development, guiding, visitor services, resort management, and event planning. Also examines history of travel, types of travelers, motives of travel, niche markets, and current trends.

PRE-PHASE II Therapeutic Recreation Concentration ONLY (FALL)

380 Therapeutic Recreation Principles, Practices and Techniques (5)  
Prereq: Phase I Recreation major or appropriate experience; written permission. Concentrated analysis of the process and practice of therapeutic recreation. Includes medical terminology, disabling conditions, adaptations, models of health care, rehabilitation techniques, and further examination of the foundations and development of therapeutic recreation. Includes one hour arranged.

PHASE II (WINTER) – 16 credits (Students choose one of four courses marked with an asterisk in Phase II.)

370* Outdoor Program Development (4)  
Prereq: Phase I Recreation major or permission of instructor. Methods and techniques in the organization, implementation, and evaluation of recreation programs in outdoor settings.

372 Management of Recreation and Leisure Services (5)  
Prereq: Phase I Recreation major or permission of instructor. Entry-level administrative skills associated with managing personnel and organizational resources within parks and recreation systems.

373 Recreation Programming (4)  
Prereq: Phase I Recreation major or permission of instructor. Systems approach to programming methods for individual and group program planning in all parks and recreation settings.

376* Therapeutic Recreation Program Design (4)  
Prereq: Phase I Recreation major or permission of instructor. Methods and techniques in the organization, implementation, and evaluation of recreation programs for special populations: needs assessment, activity modification, adaptive equipment, physical and behavioral management, and intervention techniques.

377* Community Recreation (4)  
Prereq: Phase I Recreation major or permission of instructor. An examination of the traditional and alternative models of community development and their connections to recreation programming, aimed at understanding the interrelationships and importance of social, political, and economic dimensions of community.
378 Human Relations: Concepts and Skills (4)
Prereq: Phase I Recreation major or permission of instructor. Knowledge of human relations concepts and development of basic helping skills needed by individuals working in therapeutic relationships in outdoor, community, tourism, and institutional settings. Designed to meet certification requirements for therapeutic recreation.

379* Tourism Planning and Development (4)
Prereq: Phase I Recreation major or permission of instructor. Course will introduce students to the history, concepts, principles, marketing, and planning of ecotourism activities. The focus will be on tours and activities that promote cultural and environmental awareness, community empowerment, and local economic benefits. Emphasis will be on non-western cultures.

PHASE III (SPRING OR SUMMER) – 15 credits

473 Internship III (15) – spring OR 472 Internship II (12) – summer

and 471 Internship I (3) – spring or fall

Prereq: Phase II Recreation major. Full-time supervised professional experience emphasizing functional proficiency under joint sponsorship of university and agency personnel. S/U grading. Students are also required to complete a minimum of 240 hours of approved paid or unpaid field work experience in recreation and leisure services prior to registering for their internship.

Students planning to do a summer internship (Rec 472, Internship II) must register for Rec 471 (Internship I) either the quarter before or the quarter after the internship. This gives students the full 15 credits for their internship. Rec 471 provides the additional three credits only; there is no work to be done for this class as all the work is done during the summer quarter internship. Students should see their advisors for further information.

PHASE IV (FALL) – 15 credits (Students choose one of four courses marked with an asterisk in Phase IV.)

421* Therapeutic Recreation Trends and Issues (3)
Prereq: Phase III or appropriate experience; written permission. An analysis of trends and issues affecting the profession of therapeutic recreation.

444 Recreation Budgeting and Finance (4)
Prereq: Phase III Recreation majors or permission of instructor. Principles and techniques of obtaining, budgeting, and managing financial resources in parks and recreation agencies.

450 Recreation Program Evaluation (4)
Prereq: Phase III Recreation majors or permission of instructor. Quantitative and qualitative methods of program evaluation emphasizing experiential learning, questionnaire design and survey research, interviews, observations, and consensus techniques.

470* Adventure-Based Programming (3)
Prereq: Phase III Recreation majors or permission of instructor. Methods and techniques in the assessment, design, implementation and evaluation of adventure programs in enrichment and therapeutic recreation settings.

475* Community Development and Leisure Services (3)
Prereq: Phase III Recreation majors or permission of instructor. Principles and techniques of using community-driven assets-based models to focus on how recreation and leisure services form coalitions to serve marginalized communities. Case studies are used to examine barriers to and opportunities for community development.

479* Ecotourism: Principles and Practices (3)
Prereq: RECR 379 or permission of instructor. Provides an understanding of the principles and practices of ecotourism. Examines theory, practice, history, terminology, and issues in ecotourism planning and management. Emphasizes sustainable practices as they relate to traveler education, tour planning, and destination development.

480 Leisure and Society (4) – WP3
Prereq: Phase III Recreation majors. Senior capstone that builds on general education and foundations of professional education. Goal is to synthesize diverse strands of theory and practice into an integrated understanding of recreation and leisure in modern society, with implications for professional service.

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